

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3199
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BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (406) 444-2074
TELEFAX: (406) 444-2684

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2007

December 17, 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners
County Courthouse
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840-2703

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Ravalli County Commissioners:

In September of 2007 you were sent a geographic place/name proposal which is currently before the U. S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). As stated in the first letter, this proposal pertains to a creek in Ravalli & Missoula Counties and would assign that feature the name Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek, which means "where you rein your horse back" in the language of the Salish-Pend d Oreille people. Currently, that feature may be locally referred to as Squaw Creek.

This proposal was submitted by representatives of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. As you may already be aware, in 1999 the Montana Legislature passed HB 412, which established an advisory group to identify and develop names to replace existing geographic feature names that contain the word "squaw".

I plan to provide a response to the BGN in January 2008 and would like to include your comments to assist them in determining approval/non-approval of this proposal. Should you decide not to support this proposed name change, I strongly suggest that you submit an alternative name for this feature through the BGN process (http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/name_form.htm). There are some rules to what names can and can not be submitted and that information can be found at (http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro_pol_pro.pdf).

Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lowell Whitney".

Lowell Whitney
Montana Geographic Names Advisor
MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Phone: (406) 542-4256

Travers, Sue

From: Roger L Payne [rpayne@usgs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2007 7:37 PM
To: Louis A Yost; Jane A Messenger; Kenneth B Fox; Jennifer E Runyon
Cc: bbewley@blm.gov; Chick Fagan; bkanalley@fs.fed.us; Whitney, Lowell
Subject: Fw: GNIS-WEB-FORM-Sin-tin-tin-em-ska-Creek

----- Forwarded by Roger L Payne/GIO/USGS/DOI on 07/17/2007 09:36 PM -----

james@cskt.org

To:

cc:

Subject: GNIS-WEB-FORM-Sin-tin-tin-em-ska-Creek

07/09/2007 01:54 PM

Proposed feature name: Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek
State or equivalent where feature is located: Montana
Is feature located in other states?: no
County where feature is located: Missoula and Ravalli
City, Town, Township where feature is located:
Administrative Area where feature is located: Partly state of Montana land
Action requested: Name or Spelling Change

Why does feature need a name?:

Now called Squaw Creek. In 1999 Montana enacted House Bill 412 to replace all such offensive and derogatory placenames.

Feature type: Creek
GNIS feature?: Unknown

Feature description:

Between Florence and Lolo, MT, a creek flowing north parallel to the Bitterroot River for about 8 miles to its confluence with the Bitterroot River just south of Lolo.

Name information:

Sin-tin-em-ska, a traditional Salish-Pend d Oreille name for the Squaw Creek area, means "Where you rein your horse back. Tribal elders relate that when Salish people returned from buffalo hunts, their horses would smell the home country at this place, and start straining against the reins.

Feature elevation: 3163

Mouth or center of feature:

Latitude: 46.44.07 N
longitude: 114.03.48 W

Source of feature

Latitude: 46.38.51 N
longitude: 114.04.07 W

Maps and other published sources using name:

7/31/2007

Other names used for feature:

Is proposed name in local usage?: No
Is there local opposition or conflict
regarding the proposed name: No

Additional information:

Organizations or individuals which support proposed name:

Tribal Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,
P.O. Box 117, Pablo, MT 59855, 406-675-2700. Governing
body of tribal government of Flathead Indian Reservation.
In area for millennia. Montana House Bill 412 Advisory
Committee, Sen. Carol Juneau; Chair, PO Box 200500,
Helena, MT 59620, 406-338-5689, csjuneau@3rivers.net.
Sen. Juneau is from Browning, MT and represents a district
that encompasses the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. She
is a past president of Blackfeet Community College.
As member of the Montana House, she was a sponsor of
HB 412, which mandated replacing all placenames containing
the word "squaw." American Indian Caucus of the
Montana state legislature, PO Box 200400, Helena, MT
59620, 406-444-1634, fax 406-444-4362. Comprised of
Senators and Representatives from six of Montana's seven
reservations, including the Blackfeet Reservation (Sen.
Carol Juneau and Rep. Shannon Augare), the Crow Reservation
(Sen. Gerald Pease and Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman),
the Fort Peck Reservation (Sen. Frank Smith and Rep.
Margaret Campbell), the Northern Cheyenne Reservation
(Rep. Norma Bixby), the Flathead Reservation (Rep. Joey
Jayne), and the Rocky Boy Reservation (Rep. Jonathan
Windy Boy), as well as Rep. Douglas Cordier of Columbia
Falls.

Proposed By Name: James Steele, Jr.

Street: PO Box 117

City, State and Zip: Pablo, MT 59855

Email: james@cskt.org

Telephone: 406-275-2700

Fax Number: 406-275-2806

Title: Chairman, Tribal Council

Company or Agency: Confederated Salish & Kootenai

Submitted By Name: Thompson R. Smith

Street: PO Box 550

City, State and Zip: St. Ignatius, MT 59865

Email: thompsons@cskt.org

Telephone: 406-745-4572

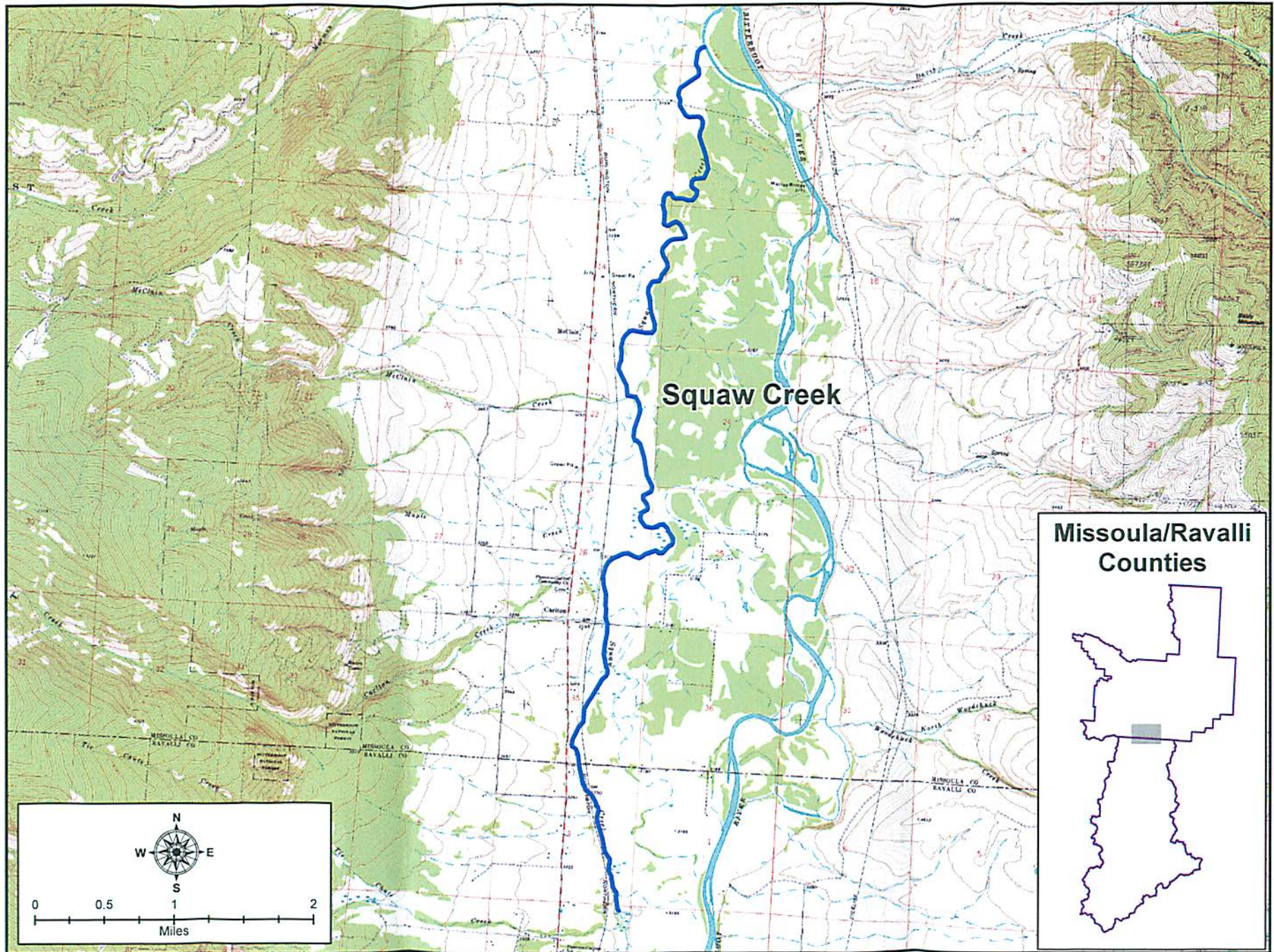
Fax Number: 406-745-4573

Title: Consultant

Company or Agency: Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture

Do you have additional materials to submit?: Yes

Domestic Geographic Name Change Request
Change Squaw Creek (Missoula & Ravalli Counties) to Sin_tin_tin_em_ska Creek



Domestic Geographic Name Change Request
Change Squaw Creek (Missoula & Ravalli Counties) to Sin_tin_tin_em_ska Creek

